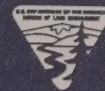


CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

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WELCOME KEMP!

Although an Interim Service Center Director has been named, SC employees have not had a chance to see much of him. The week after Kemp Conn, formerly Associate State Director in Utah, was announced as Interim SCD, he left for a previously planned vacation in Central America.

Kemp is a career BLM employee, with the exception of 2 years he spent in the U.S. Army. He started with BLM while still in high school. His first position was as a



cadastral survey aid in Utah in 1951. He continued survey work in several other states, including Oregon, Wyoming, the Dakotas, and Montana.

In 1959, Kemp went to the Medford District in Oregon as a forestry aid. He spent the next 5 years in Oregon in various positions, including forester, area engineer, district maintenance engineer, and district project engineer. From there he moved to the Susanville District in California and later became Assistant District Manager in Riverside, California, which he feels was a turning point in his career. While he was ADM, Kemp feels he really started to grow because he shifted from a resource orientation to a focus on people. According to Kemp, it was there that he learned where he wanted to go in BLM.

From California, Kemp went to the Washington Office for 2 years. In 1980, he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada as District Manager. He then was named Associate State Director in Utah in 1985, where he remained until coming to the Service Center.

Because his assignment here is only temporary (about 4 months), Kemp does not expect to make big changes at the SC.

He feels his role is to help any way he can to facilitate communications, to keep operations moving on a daily basis as productively and efficiently as possible.

Although he only had time for a brief tour of the SC before he left, Kemp said, "I'm impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the people I've met. This orientation has been a good education for me — I had no idea what was here. All top managers from the states should come for a tour."

Kemp hopes to take advantage of the opportunity to learn as much as he can while he is at the SC. He expects to come out of this assignment as a better person.

MORE CASU NEWS

Another of the many services provided by the Cooperative Administrative Support Unit (CASU) is personal property management. By consolidating space requirements for storage of excess property and using a central property management system, CASU helps reduce individual agencies' costs.

The CASU Personal Property Center (PPC) provides excess office furniture and equipment for loan on a short-term basis. The PPC also stores excess property prior to disposal. This disposal process allows CASU participating agencies to screen excess property on location for 2 weeks before it is transferred to the CASU warehouse. Once in the warehouse, property can be transferred to any agency. Agencies can also call the PPC and leave requests for property. The PPC coordinates all transfers of property with GSA.

CASU occasionally conducts small lot sales and surplus salvage sales. The next sale of excess Government property will be held March 21, 1990. Federal employees, as well as the general public, are welcome to bid on any items. Items can be viewed from March 12-20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in building 41, entrance E-21. For further information, please call the PPC at 236-8105.

RFP STATUS

Though some may be wondering what the status of the RFP is, many are wondering what the heck the initials RFP stand for! We hear them used often, but we don't hear much else about them.

The initials RFP stand for request for proposal. This is a request that details what is needed to supply BLM's ADP needs for modernization. Very little can be said about the RFP due to procurement sensitivity. However, the following information went out to all prospective offerors, and is good information for BLMers as well:

"Please be advised that the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are currently reviewing plans and levels of investment to achieve automation of numerous BLM functions. The FY1991 President's Budget, includes funding for the Automated Land and Minerals Record System (ALMRS), administrative software conversion and for a high-level design for systems integration. Outyear budget projections reflect the continuation of funding to complete development and begin implementation bureauwide of ALMRS during the first part of fiscal year 1994. Other aspects of the BLM ADP Modernization plans are being analyzed on a continuing basis by BLM, Departmental staff, and OMB.

A detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) to supply BLM's ADP needs is under final review and is currently scheduled to be issued in mid-April. Decisions to fund other elements of ADP Modernization beyond ALMRS, software conversion and the high-level design for systems integration will be made at appropriate points in future budget cycles. These decisions will be based on further workload, cost, and program analyses."

REMOTE SENSING

When BLM range conservationists document trend plots in the field using 35 mm photography, are they a) simply obtaining a photograph of the vegetation within the plot or, b) practicing a form of remote sensing? The answer is: both.

Jim Turner, Supervisory Geologist and Chief of the Remote Sensing Section, describes the techniques of remote sensing as the process of collecting information about an object without being in physical contact with that object, and then performing analysis of the information to gain insight into the object's characteristics. The remotely sensed information is usually recorded in the form of electromagnetic radiation reflected or radiated by that object. By definition, when the range conservationists acquired the photographs, they were actually employing remote sensing technology.

Remote sensing in the Bureau involves the collection and analysis of both conventional aerial photography and unconventional satellite imagery data. The difference between the two methods is based both upon the sensor used to record the information and media upon which the information is recorded. In simple terms, aerial photography uses a camera and film while satellite systems usually employ scanners (similar to camcorders with very long telephoto lenses) and record the data in digital form on magnetic tape.

Another obvious difference in these methods is the height above the ground at

which the information is collected.

Aerial photography is usually obtained from cameras mounted in aircraft which fly between 500 and 60,000 feet above the ground, while satellites orbit at altitudes approaching 500 miles above the earth.

So, how is all of this technology applied to meet the Bureau's resource management needs and concerns?

Remotely sensed data are routinely employed by field offices to assist in a number of resource management programs. In mineral resource management, satellite imagery data and aerial photography are used to monitor compliance with surface management regulations and lease terms, to assess the potential for the occurrence of mineral resources, to prevent unauthorized use, and to verify production figures supplied by mine operators. On the renewable side, remotely sensed data have been used to monitor range condition, inventory

the extent of riparian resources, construct fire fuel data bases, delineate wildlife habitat, and map the extent of wild fires, to name just a few.

Providing the Bureau with technical direction and assistance in the application of remote sensing technology and furnishing operational support to field offices through training and technology transfer are the primary functions of the Remote Sensing Section. In addition, the section also supplies technical assistance to the Service Center's Information Resources Management staff through

their input to the Interim and Target LIS design and specification documents.

Within recent years, the Bureau has devoted considerable time and effort to the capture of automated resource data which can be stored and manipulated by spatial data processing systems. The



Satellite view of downtown Denver from 500 miles in space. Mile High Stadium can be seen on the left, about halfway up.

The Remote Sensing Section is part of the Branch of Mapping Sciences which was created in last year's reorganization of the Service Center. In addition to Remote Sensing, the Branch also includes the Cartography and Photogrammetry Sections. Traditionally, the role of the BLM's mapping sciences function has been to provide support to the field in the areas of cartography, photogrammetry, aerial photography, and remote sensing. The establishment of the Branch of Mapping Sciences places all of these functions within one administrative group which should result in better service to the field.

question naturally arises, how can this data be kept current and are there more efficient techniques for data capture? Remote sensing technology offers the promise of a cost-effective means of updating the LIS geographic information base as well as providing base data such as land use and land cover in a more efficient manner.

Watch for next month's feature on using remote sensing to detect illegal crops on public lands.